(d) Does not arise in view of the reply at (c). However, Forest fire management involves prevention, timely detection, control and monitoring. A combination of technologies such as Remote Sensing, Geographic Information System *etc.* is being used for detection and monitoring of forest fires. Under the Centrally Sponsored — Integrated Forest Protection Scheme, Forest Fire Control and Management is one of the components. Financial assistance is provided to the States/Union Territories on sharing basis to take up various activities for effective prevention and control of forest fires including use of modern technology.

Profit margins for the forest produce

1916. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether with fast depleting forest cover in the country, Government is sleeping over the issue of promoting forest certification which can play a pivotal role in promoting conservation and improve profit margins for the forest produce;

(b) if so, whether India is already behind desired target of 33 per cent forest/tree cover by 2012;

(c) whether forest certifications can play a major role in conserving forests and improving profit margins of forest produce;

(d) if so, whether Indian products manufactured from materials from non-certified forest face bias in global markets; and

(e) if so, by what time final decision in this regard is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The National Forest Policy, 1988 provides that one-third of the total land area of the Country should be under forest or tree cover. However presently, as per the State of Forest Report, 2005 the total area of Forest Cover of the country is 677,088 square kilometers which constitutes 20.60% of the geographic area of the country.

(c) Forest Certification is an emerging market tool that provides credible information about sustainable management of the forestry resources. Products made by using sustainably harvested renewable raw material are termed as "environmentally friendly (preference) products" and are given preference by green consumers, particularly in developed markets. Companies thus use forest certification as a marketing tool to get a preference for their products and also better image of their company. Therefore, It has been generally opined by the experts that Forest Certification can certainly promote sustainable forest management and hence conservation of forests.

(d) Due to growing concerns about deforestation among environmentally conscious consumers in Europe and North America, Forest Certification has emerged as a response from

the companies and retail chains using forestry raw materials (timber, particularly) in their products. These companies require from their suppliers that they use certified forest produce in their products. However, there is no empirical study so far which could suggest the quantum of bias faced by Indian products manufactured from materials from non-certified forest in the global markets.

(e) The question does not arise in view of the above.

National Action Plan regarding climate change

1917. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to prepare a National Action Plan to deal with the issues of climate, including the remedial measures for mitigating the impact on foodgrains production; and

(b) if so, the details thereof, *inter-alia* indicating the time-frame within which it would be finalized?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) The National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC) was released on 30th June, 2008 to outline India's strategy to meet the challenge of Climate Change. The National Action Plan outlines steps that will enable the country to adapt to climate change and enhance the ecological sustainability of India's development path.

One of the eight National Missions outlined in the National Action Plan is the National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture. The National Mission for Sustainable agriculture will focus on four areas crucial to agriculture in adapting to climate change, namely dry land agriculture, risk management, access to information, and use of biotechnology. The National Action Plan envisages that the Mission document will be finalized by December, 2008.

Integrated forest conservation scheme

†1918. SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS:
SHRI BALAVANT *ALIAS* BAL APTE:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the amount for which a proposal under Integrated Forest Conservation Scheme has been received from Chhattisgarh;

(b) whether the said amount has been sanctioned; and

(c) if not, the plan thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) There is no scheme in the name of Integrated Forest Conservation Scheme. However, a Centrally Sponsored Scheme, namely the Integrated Forest Protection Scheme (IFPS) is being implemented by this Ministry. The Government of Chhattisgarh had submitted an Annual Work Programme for 2008-09 at a total cost of Rs. 1107.26 lakhs.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.